



REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Of these, Claims 2-10, 12-18 and 22-30 are objected to, and Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). In view of the amendments and arguments made herein, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

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DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. The revised drawings correct numbering errors.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10, 1-19 and 21-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bateman, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,879,404) in view of Kennedy, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,409,777). The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the amended claims which have been amended to include the limitation that the thermoplastic bearing member is made of a biocompatible material.

Applicant notes that Kennedy discloses a polymer composite having a polymer with more than one perfluorocyclobutane group. While Kennedy describes this material's use in a disparate array of technical areas such as electrical components, optics, helmets, valves, molds, light bulbs, carpets, photovoltaic film, siding and roofing, it fails to describe the use of the material in implant biomedical applications. Further, the material disclosed in Kennedy is described as having particular surface properties

such as lubricity and oil repellency which generally lead to surface adhesion problems. As the claimed invention is directed to an implantable biomedical device, Applicant asserts that those skilled in the art would not be motivated to look to the Kennedy reference for a teaching in the development of the claimed invention. Further, there is no motivation to combine the Kennedy reference which uses a perfluorocyclobutane containing polymer with polymer bearing acetabular components to produce the claimed invention.

For these and the reasons mentioned above, Applicant respectfully asserts that there is no motivation to combine the references cited to produce a ceramic/polymer implant device as claimed.

CONCLUSION

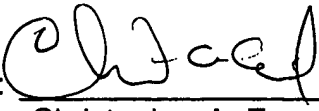
It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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